

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A flexible member for netting comprising:
 - 5 a sheathing made from a flexible synthetic material and having a hollow internal
confine extending therewithin;
 - an elongated core member located within said internal confine of said sheathing;
 - said core member having plurality of fibers extending longitudinally along the
length thereof;
 - 10 said fibers being of a shrinkable material which when wetted and dried cause the
core member to decrease in length; and
 - means for causing a corresponding length of said sheathing and said core
member to become secured against the movement relative to one another such
that upon wetting of said internal core member and subsequently drying, said
15 flexible member and said sheathing are reduced in length.
2. A flexible member as defined in claim 1 further characterized in that said
internal core member takes the form of a flat braided rope.
3. A flexible member as defined in claim 2 further characterized by said flat braid
rope of said core member being disposed within said internal confine of said
20 sheathing such that said sheathing has a generally rectangular shape as seen in
side view and being generally defined by first and second spaced long sides
extending parallel to one another and by first and second short sides each
connected to and extending generally perpendicularly to the first and second long
sides and extending parallel to one another to define therewithin said hollow
25 internal confine.
4. A flexible member as defined in claim 3 further characterized by said
sheathing being a multi-filament material formed from color fast polypropylene.

5. A flexible member as defined in claim 4 further characterized by said member being one of a plurality of such members arranged in a lattice of plurality of said members disposed substantially coplanar with one another such that said long sides thereof overlap at intersections with one another at predetermined angles and being stitched at the intersections thereof.

6. A flexible member as defined in claim 1 further characterized by said internal core member being a generally cylindric twisted rope.

7. A flexible member as defined in claim 6 further characterized by said flexible member being one of a plurality of such members arranged in the lattice of a plurality of such members disposed substantially coplanar with one another intersecting at predetermined spacings such that one member pierces the sheathing and core of the other and passes through it and the other member pierces the one member sheathing and core of the one member and passes through it a nodal point to effect securement of said core and said sheathing in unity with one another.

8. A flexible member as defined in claim 7 further characterized by said sheathing being formed a multi-filament polypropylene material.

9. A flexible member as defined in claim 8 further characterized by said sheathing being formed by a diamond braided configuration.

10. A flexible member comprising:

a plurality of strains being a composite of elongated materials twisted to form a cord;

each of said cords having a plurality of elongated polyester or multi-filament strands intermixed with one of a plurality of yarns which shrink when wetted and dried; and

said cords being twisted with one another to create said generally cylindrical cord.

11. A flexible member as defined in claim 10 further characterized by said flexible member being an unsheathed member.

12. A method of supporting a net along a support member comprising the steps of:

providing a support member having a generally elongated extent and having a given diameter;

5 providing a plurality of lock fasteners which have a free end which connects to an opposite end to create a variably constraining diameter when pulled tight;

providing a net having a border with warp and weft members extending generally perpendicularly thereto to define spaces therebetween;

10 stretching said border along said support member and fastening said border member to said support member using said lock fasteners by wrapping said fastener about said net border and said support member in said spacing and pulling the free end of said fastener through a locking mechanism to lock the fastener in place.

13. A method as defined in claim 12 further characterized by providing a net
15 having a border which has a generally rectangular shape defined by first and second spaced apart long sides extending parallel to one another and first and second short sides each connected to and extending generally perpendicular to the first and second long sides and extending parallel to one another and locating the long sides of said border flat against said support member and securing said
20 border to said support member with said lock fasteners.

14. A method as defined in claim 13 further characterized by providing a rubberized sleeve about said lock fasteners and clamping said border about said support element in the region of said rubberized sleeve.

15. A method as defined in claim 14 further characterized by locking said net to
25 said support member using a one way latch mechanism provided as part of said lock fastener.

16. A system for supporting a net along a support member comprising:

a support member having a generally elongated extent and having a given diameter;

a plurality of lock fasteners which have a free end which connects to an opposite end to create a variably constraining diameter when pulled tight;

5 a net having a border with warp and weft members extending generally perpendicularly thereto to define spaces therebetween;

said border being stretched along said support member and fastened to said support member using said lock fasteners by wrapping said fasteners about said net border and said support member in said spaces and pulling the free end of
10 said fastener through a locking mechanism to lock the fastener in place with the border and the support member.

17. A system as defined in claim 16 further characterized by said net having a border which has a generally rectangular shape defined by first and second spaced apart long sides extending parallel to one another and first and second
15 short sides each connected to and extending generally perpendicular to the first and second long sides and extending parallel to one another and locating the long sides of said border flat against said support member and securing said border to said support member with said lock fasteners.

18. A system as defined in claim 17 further characterized by a rubberized sleeve
20 being disposed about said lock fasteners and said border being clamped about said support element in the region of said rubberized sleeve.

19. A system as defined in claim 18 further characterized by locking said net to said support member using a one way latch mechanism provided as part of said lock fastener.